

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 00578 142326Z

ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00
/020 W

-----142333Z 040319 /66

O 142241Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2453

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION - (JOHN) ALAN BEESLEY

1. THE FOLLOWING BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION IS
FURNISHED FOR (JOHN) ALAN BEESLEY, ASSISTANT UNDER
SECRETARY OF STATE, DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

2. FORMERLY AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA, ALAN BEESLEY,
48, WAS NAMED ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE IN
THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS IN AUGUST 1976.
HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR LAW OF THE SEA (LOS) MATTERS,
AND, DE FACTO, SERVES AS THE DEPARTMENT'S LEGAL
ADVISER. BEESLEY IS CANADA'S FOREMOST EXPERT ON
LOS MATTERS, AND PART OF THE REASON FOR HIS RETURN
TO OTTAWA WAS TO FACILITATE HIS CONTACT WITH THE
DEPARTMENT'S LOS STAFF. PRIOR TO HIS REASSIGNMENT
TO OTTAWA, BEESLEY HAD OPERATED ALMOST INDEPENDENTLY
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND THE MOVE
PROBABLY REFLECTED AN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DESIRE TO
KEEP BEESLEY ON A SHORTER LEASH.

3. BEESLEY IS GENERALLY RECOGNIZED AS AN ARDENT
AND FORCEFUL NATIONALIST, A THOUGH NEGOTIATOR, AND
NOT PARTICULARLY DISPOSED TO BE GENTLE WITH U.S.

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THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS
WHEN THERE HAVE BEEN CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN THE US
AND CANADA ON LOS MATTERS, BEESLEY HAS TAKEN A HARD
LINE WITHIN THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT AND HAS NOT
ALWAYS TREATED OUR VIEWS FAIRLY. IT IS LOGICAL TO
SUSPECT THAT HE MAY BE BEHIND CERTAIN ANTI-US VIEWS
(E.G. STALLING ON STRAITS/POLLUTION ISSUE, INSISTING

ON DEEP COMPROMISE). ON THOSE RARE OCCASIONS
WHEN HE WAS OVERRULED BY CABINET, INDICATIONS ARE THAT
BEESLEY WAS FURIOUS.

4. INTELLIGENT AND ARTICULATE, BEESLEY CAN BE
CHARMING. HE CAN ALSO BE A TOUGH, DETERMINED AND
FREQUENTLY ARGUMENTATIVE NEGOTIATOR. A CANADIAN NEWS-
PAPER HAS DESCRIBED BEESLEY AS "NO SHRINKING VIOLET",
ADDING THAT HIS "QUIET, HIGH-PITCHED VOICE AND DEFEREN-
TIAL MANNER CONCEAL A TOUGH SINGLENESS OF PURPOSE,
BLENDED WITH PRAGMATISM, FUNCTIONALISM AND FLEXIBILITY".
MARRIED TO THE FORMER RUTH STEVENS, BEESLEY HAS TWO
CHILDREN. HE SPEAKS FRENCH.
ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977OTTAWA00578
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770052-0747
Format: TEL
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770244/aaaabmzo.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 955acec6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION INR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3327971
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION - (JOHN) ALAN BEESLEY
TAGS: PINT, CA, (BEESLEY, JOHN ALAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/955acec6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009